

take from one, because it is thought that his own industry and that of his father's has acquired too much, in order to spare to others, who, or whose fathers, have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association, "the guarantee to every one of a free exercise of his industry, and the fruits acquired by it." If the overgrown wealth of an individual be deemed dang-erous to the State, the best corrective is the law of equal inheritance to all in equal degree; and the better, as this enforces a law of nature, while extra-taxation violates it. (To Joseph Milligan, 1816. C. VI., 574.)

TAXATION.—I rejoice, as a moralist, at the prospect of a reduc-
tion of the duties on wine, by our National Legislature. It is an error to view a tax on that liquor as merely a tax on the rich. It is a prohibition of its use to the middling class of our citizens, and a condemnation of them to the poison of whisky, which is desolating their houses. No nation is drunken where wine is cheap, and none sober where the dearness of wine substitutes ardent spirits as the common beverage. It is, in truth, the only antidote to the bane of whisky. Fix but the duty at the rate of other merchandise, and we can drink wine here as cheap as we do grog; and who will not prefer it? Its extended use will carry health and comfort to a much enlarged circle. Every one in easy circumstances (as the bulk of our citizens are) will prefer it to the poison to which they are now driven by their government. And the treasury itself will find that a penny a piece from a dozen, is more than a groat from a single one. (To M. de Neuville, 1818. C. VII, no.)

TEXTURE OF OFFICE.—This is a sample of the effects we may expect from the late mischievous law vacating every four years nearly all the executive offices of the government. It saps the

constitutional and salutary functions of the President, and introduces a principle of intrigue and corruption which will soon leaven the mass not only of Senators but of citizens. It is more baneful than the attempt which failed at the beginning of the government to make all officers irremovable but with the consent of the Senate. This places every four years all appointments under their power and even obliges them to act on every